

Letters

Clarification on HB 238

Representative Natalie Wells seemed to be confused when she answered my letter to the editor. While I wrote about HB238, and HB238 only, Ms. Wells went off on HB191.

HB 238 seeks to establish a committee to study broadband. The reason Fairpoint, and other broadband providers, are so against even a simple study committee is because they do not want the state to look closely at how they spend taxpayer's dollars. Yes, I do agree with Representative Wells that we do not want to waste taxpayer's dollars. But she may not be aware that Fairpoint was given approximately \$25 million, (Fairpoint is unable or unwilling to give us an exact number) by the FCC for rural broadband development in unserved or underserved New Hampshire areas. She also may not be aware that this money is in fact taxpayer's money we

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send to the FCC in the form of a Federal Universal Service Charge we all pay on our phone and internet bills. It is our money, sent to the FCC as \$1 and returned to us, in typical Washington fashion, as between 30 and 40 cents. The balance, 60 to 70 cents, goes to subsidize red southern states.

But I would still be happy with the 40 or 30 cents if the money was sent back directly to the state of New Hampshire. But to add insult to injury, this money goes directly to Fairpoint with the State having no say, no oversight on how that money is spent to connect unserved and underserved areas in New Hampshire.

HB238 would allow the legislature to ask questions and get answers as to how the state and the industry can accelerate

the pace of broadband infrastructure in our rural areas, in total transparency. I include the text of the bill below with the relevant paragraphs:

Three Duties. Recognizing the importance of Internet access to all citizens and the need to promote access in unserved and underserved areas, the committee shall:

I. Explore the changes needed to establish a governmental structure to facilitate and coordinate broadband technology as recommended in the final report of the New Hampshire broadband mapping and planning program.

II. Explore opportunities for public/private partnerships to facilitate broadband availability in underserved areas.

III. Facilitate the adoption of wireless technologies to expand the reach of broadband access into rural areas.

So is it a waste of time to find out how \$25 million of taxpayers money is being spent by Fairpoint? I don't think so.

Mario Ratzki

Thankful for Heros

I want to thank 3 very special gentlemen that make up the Andover Rescue Squad: Rene Lefebvre, John Kinney, and Jeff Clark.

Recently they transported me to the ER at the hospital after I collapsed. Now I am home and doing better, I want to thank them.

The Andover community is very fortunate to have such special people that donate their time and energy to make sure we are safe.

It is said that true heroes do the tasks that are rarely acknowledged.

Our community is lucky to have the volunteers that make up our fire dept and rescue squad. Hope we can all take a moment to be thankful for the heroes in this town!

Again, a big thank you to Rene, John, and Jeff!

Suzzy Brown

The mission of *The Andover Beacon* is to serve and strengthen the Andover community. To that end, we welcome civil, reasoned letters addressing specifically local issues, events, and developments. Submissions must not be critical of another's religion; blasphemous; obscene; hateful; legally objectionable; or commercial in nature. The Beacon reserves the right to edit or not publish submissions it deems inappropriate for any reason.

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Notes from Concord, March 2017

Mary Anne Broshek
David Karrick

House, Representative Wells voted in favor of the bill;

HB 157: adding chronic pain to qualify for therapeutic use of cannabis, passed by the House, Representative Wells and Copp voted for the bill;

HB 361: removing the authority of the Commissioner of Health and Human Services relative to child immunization requirements, killed by the House, Representative Wells voted to kill the bill, Representative Copp voted in favor of the bill;

HB 472: permitting some patients to grow Cannabis for their own therapeutic use, bill was killed, Representative Wells voted to kill the bill, Representative Copp voted in favor of the bill.

March 9 was another busy day in the NH House. These were significant bills with roll call votes:

HB 447: in favor of electing the U.S. President by popular vote, bill was killed and both Representative Wells and Copp voted to kill the bill;

HB 287: to increase compensation for providers of services to people with developmental and other disabilities, bill was killed in a very close vote, both Representative Copp and Wells voted to kill the bill;

HB 478: prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity, bill was tabled and both Reps. voted to table;

HB 589: would repeal the law that See Concord on page 6

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